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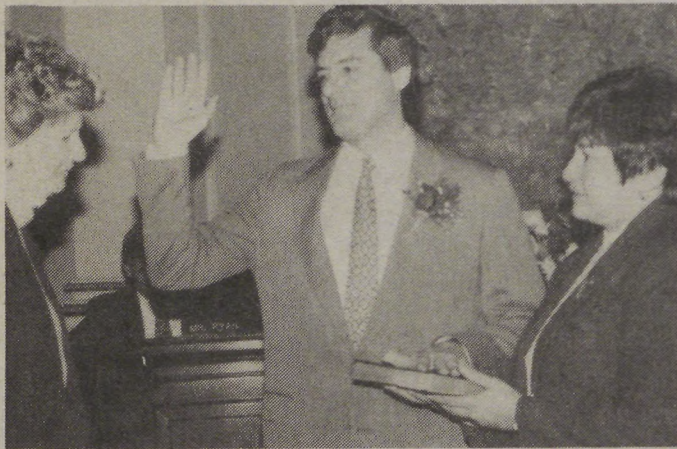
Winter 1998



Peace Poster Contest Winners

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Congratulations!



On January 1, 1998, Vic De Luca was sworn in as a City Councilman in Maplewood, New Jersey. Vic served as the Executive Director of the Ironbound Community Corporation for many years. Many residents of Ironbound and Newark remember the years of good work Vic did with and in this community and the city as a whole. Holding the Bible for Vic is his wife Janey Nuzzo (right). Congratulations and good luck Vic!



In December, Tiwana Steward-Griffin received a plaque from June Kruzewski from the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste in appreciation for her work on environmental justice. Tiwana has taken a new job at the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic (but will remain on ICC's staff for a transition period). We wish Tiwana good luck in her new job.



Julie Zalewski has retired after eight years of delivering meals for the Ironbound Community Corporation's Meals On Wheels Program. Julie often said she felt that her clients and ICC were part of a big family. "Julie represents what the Ironbound Community Corporation is all about - service to the people of Ironbound," said Joe Della Fave, Executive Director of the ICC. "Her work wasn't a job, it was a labor of love for the seniors and she was on call 24 hours a day." "There are no words which can express our thanks to Julie," said Pat Danielak, the Director of the ICC Senior Citizen Meals On Wheels Program. "Everyone will miss her, and we wish her well".

Free Tax Help

Free help with your taxes is available at Ironbound Community Corporation, 95 Fleming Ave. The Accountants for the Public Interest provides the free tax assistance program each year.

Saturday

March 21, 1998

95 Fleming Ave.

**You must call to make an appointment ahead
of time: 344-7210.**

Riverbank Park: "A New Beginning"

"Now that the plan to build a baseball stadium in Riverbank Park has been stopped, the next step is getting the park cleaned up and reopened," said Manuel Lavin from SPARK (Save The Park At Riverbank). "This struggle will not be over until our park is reopened for community use."

City and County officials held a Press Conference on Dec. 17, 1997, to confirm their choice of another site for a baseball stadium. The new site will be on Bridge St. in downtown Newark.

During the last few months, SPARK joined in a series of meetings, chaired by Deputy Mayor Augusto Amador, to involve many community and recreational organizations to develop a plan for reopening the park. The plan was presented to get public input at a meeting held on Dec. 10, 1997 at the Portuguese Sports Club.

"This is one of the first times I know of that so many groups in Ironbound have joined together to work for a common goal," said Mr. Amador.

The plan the group developed calls for restoring the park in its basic design. The baseball field, playground, trees and benches, track, tennis fields, basketball court and grandstand would be kept. The football field would be enlarged to be regulation size for soccer. Lines for a small children's soccer field would be added in one corner of the park. Lights would be added for nighttime play at the soccer and baseball fields. Someone from the community would be hired to supervise use and maintenance at the park.



The park is technically closed because of the discovery of toxic chemicals there. It is still being used by many people, because areas for recreation are so scarce in Ironbound. The levels of lead and some heavy metals like arsenic are above what is allowed.

SPARK has been meeting with a number of top environmental experts to develop a plan to clean up the chemicals, working around the existing trees and structures. One part of the community plan for the park is that the County work with SPARK and the experts who have offered their assistance in the clean up process.

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Congratulations SPARK!

For its successful effort to save Riverbank Park, **SPARK** will be the first recipient of a new award which is being instituted by the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee to honor a community group's preservation efforts. The award will be presented during February.

Peace Poster Contest Winners

Students from several different schools had winning posters in the **1997 Peace Poster Contest** sponsored by the Ironbound Peace Education Project.

Each fall, the **Ironbound Peace Education Project (IPEP)** sponsors the Poster Contest to encourage students, from first grade to high school to think about world peace and how to achieve it. This year's winning students (shown on the cover) were: Jacqueline Carmona and Elisha Padilla from St. Francis Xavier School; Beth Zak-Cohen from Cornerstone School; Jennifer Torres from Hawkins St. School; Sarah Arellano and Christina Rodriguez from Ann St. School, Dana Lukas from Wilson Ave. School; Luis, Miguel Cunha, Cristina Dios, Erin Partuka, Stephen Marzabal and Natalie Gonzalez from St. Casimir's; Janice Delaney, Janine Delaney and Manuela Nos from Oliver St. school; Alicia Colisto from St. Lucy Fillippini's School; Chad Culver from St. Benedict's Prep High School.

At a spaghetti dinner held on Dec. 5, 1997, the winners received certificates and prizes from the Dr. & Ms. Bernstein Scholarship Fund. The Fund was set up to honor the memory of the Bernsteins. Dr. Bernstein practiced in Ironbound for over 40 years. He and his wife were active in groups working for peace and social justice.

Those who came enjoyed the delicious spaghetti dinner made by Roni Faulkner and served by a team of volunteers. Sister Connie Tanksy, from St. Vincent's Academy, led those present in singing a variety of peace songs. Teixeira's Bakery donated a beautiful cake, which said "Peace on Earth" on the top.

The winning posters were on display at the Van Buren St. branch of the Newark Public Library during January 1998.



New Jersey Community Water Watch conducts a "Nature" class with children at the Ironbound Community After-school Program.

N.J. Waterwatch Works In Ironbound

New Jersey Community Water Watch is a project of the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) Law and Policy Center and is dedicated to improving water quality in ten different sites across the state. The project is funded by the Corporation for National Service and three AemriCorps members work here in Newark out of Rutgers University and the Ironbound Community Corporation.

Members of the Newark community of all ages can raise awareness about water quality and help restore the Passaic River by getting involved in one of New Jersey Community Water Watch's four main projects: educating school children and adults, organizing massive clean ups, monitoring water quality, and establishing citizen monitoring groups. Last fall, NJCWW helped organize 3 community cleanups, educated more than 200 children, and helped establish a citizen monitoring group. To report illegal dumping in the river, or for more information on how to gain valuable leadership experience and make a difference in Newark, call Waterwatch at the Ironbound Community School, at 465-0947.

Recreation Roundtable in Ironbound

It was a strange sight. Ironbound residents sitting in a circle looking at a giant map of Ironbound spread on the floor. Now and then, someone got down on hands and knees to point to a spot on the map. What was it all about?

It was the **Recreation Roundtable** sponsored by the Ironbound Community Corporation and the Portuguese American Congress (PAC) and held on Nov. 13 at St. Lucy Fillippini School. Ironbound residents teamed up with students and staff from the Architecture School of the New Jersey Institute of Technology to identify what kinds of recreational programs the neighborhood needs, and where they could be located.

The NJIT team produced the giant map of Ironbound. Those at the meeting helped to identify current recreational sites, like the Boys Club, the schools and parks, and empty parcels of land which could be used for fields, playgrounds or gardens. ICC interviewed some preschool and school PTA personnel to get their input. Members of football, soccer and baseball leagues were also invited to give input.

Some of the points raised at the meeting included;

- * the need for more soccer, football and baseball fields
- * the possibility of opening school recreational facilities on weekends and nights
- * insufficient playgrounds, and green spaces for gardens and benches
- * over development, and how it could be addressed
- * the lack of community awareness of recreation programs that *do* exist

As each person entered the room, they received a survey to fill out. NJIT students and staff intend to compile all the information and to come back to the community to give a final report in the near future.

"I hear Ironbound residents complain that decisions about what is going to happen in their



Coach Julio Hernandez (kneeling), from the Senior League, with some of the members of his team at the annual Little League Dinner. The Senior League has four teams, with young people 13 to 15 years old. The Little League as a whole involves about 400 Ironbound young people. Little League representatives took part in the Recreation Roundtable discussion.

neighborhood after the decisions are made by someone else, without input from community residents in the plans," said Joe Della Fave from ICC. "That is why this meeting is so unique."

ICC intends to continue to circulate the surveys, and follow up with the community recreational planning process. For more information, or to get a survey, call 589-3353.

"Housing Is A Human Right"

Channel 26

Information about tenant rights, government housing policies, effective tenant organizing, and improving your living conditions.

**For information about show times, call:
HUD Tenants' Coalition at 643-7711.**

WORKERS Put Some Extra MONEY in Your Pocket!!



For information about how you can get the Earned Income Credit and free help filing your taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Avoid refund delays! Be sure to provide the correct name and Social Security number for each person listed on your tax return.

Keep all of your income tax refund this year!

Be Smart, Save Money! Workers with modest incomes can get free help preparing their tax returns. To find the free tax preparation site near you, call 1-800-829-1040.

Remember! Getting a quick turnaround on a tax refund is the most expensive way to have your taxes filed. Paying for a quick refund takes money away from your Earned Income Credit or any other tax refund you get.

Claim Your Earned Income Credit

A Tax Benefit for People Who Work!

The Earned Income Credit is a special tax benefit for people who work full- or part-time. If you qualify, you'll owe less in taxes, and you may get cash back. Even if you don't owe income tax you can get the credit. But, you must file a federal tax return.

Who can get the Earned Income Credit?

- Single or married workers who were raising children in their homes, and who earned less than \$29,290 in 1997 (or less than \$25,760 if they were raising only one child). File form 1040 or 1040A, attach Schedule EIC.
- Single or married workers at least age 25 and under age 65, who were not raising children in their homes, and who earned less than \$9,770 in 1997. File any tax form.

THE 1998
EARNED
INCOME
CREDIT
CAMPAIGN

What Is A Brownfield, And Who Cares?

What is a brownfield?

Brownfields are abandoned industrial properties that are, or may be, contaminated with toxic chemicals. These companies have either closed, or moved to other locations, leaving closed and polluted behind them. Figuring out how bad the problem is, and how much money it will take to clean up the pollution can cost thousands of dollars and may take years. Brownfield laws were passed to make it easier and less costly for pollution on these properties to be cleaned up. Although speeding up these cleanups is important, clean ups should be done thoroughly, so that the property and the community residents around it are safe.

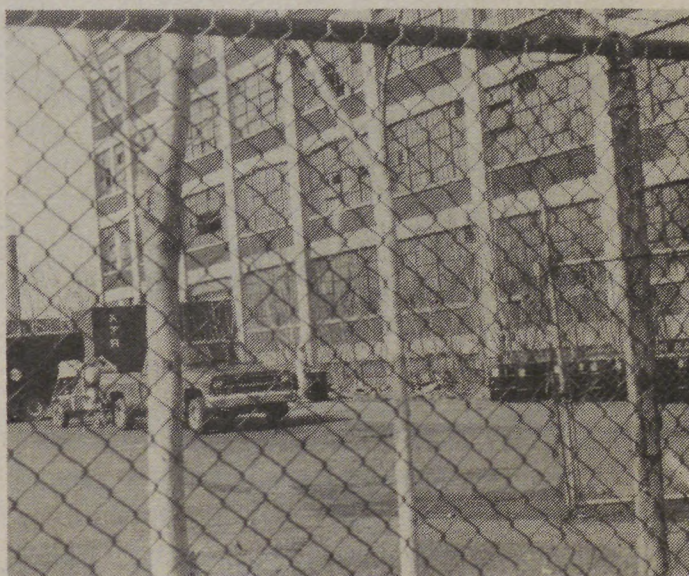
For Ironbound residents, there are two issues: 1) is the clean up adequate so that the area is safe for people who use the site, or live next to it; and 2) what is this valuable land being used for?

Brownfields are everywhere in Ironbound, and they are valuable land, in a neighborhood which is already overdeveloped. Empty land is a precious commodity. Where factories are being knocked down, homes and businesses are being built. The County jail that will be built in Ironbound is on a "brownfield" site.

At the moment, community residents have no say so over how these areas get cleaned up and what they get used for. Recently passed state laws provide no guarantee for communities. But Ironbound residents know that when they speak out with an organized voice, they can make a difference.

The City of Newark has a brownfields redevelopment project. Many of the sites it is focusing on are in Ironbound.. These include:

- * Arkansas Chemical Company on Foundry St.
- * Dupont Chemical, Avenue P
- * Scientific Chemical Processing, Wilson Ave.
- * Albert Steel Drum, Wilson Ave.
- * Otilio Landfill, Blanchard St.



Ironbound Community Corporation's Community Environmental Project is a partner with the City in this project, whose role is to help the community to know what is going on and how to get involved. The community has a right to participate in deciding the clean up methods, and development of these sites.

In a crowded area like Ironbound, these contaminated pieces of land are very valuable. They are a community resource. The land could be used for recreation, parks, homes or businesses. Right now, they are only governed by current inadequate zoning laws. The City of Newark is developing a master plan which will guide how land can be used in certain areas. Community residents need to be involved in both the brownfields and master plan projects in order to have a say in the future of this community.

The ICC's Community Environmental Program will be holding a meeting about brownfields on Tuesday, March 24, 1998 at 7:30 PM. For more information about brownfields or Newark's master plan process, contact Ana Esteves at 589-3353.

SID Proposal Opposed

"Why should people have to pay double taxes to get services which we already pay taxes for and should be getting anyway?" said David Schnegelberger, an Ironbound resident.

"They say it will only affect businesses, but they will pass it on to the consumers," said Begonia Kowet. "This will hurt everybody."

These were some of the comments made at a community meeting held on Nov. 19, 1997 at the Wolff Memorial Church. The meeting was sponsored by the Portuguese American Political Party (PAPP), the Portuguese American Congress (PAC) and Save The Park at Riverbank (SPARK).

The proposal to make Ironbound a Special Improvement District (SID) was put forward by Steve Rappaport, an Ironbound businessman. Under the proposal, all businesses in Ironbound would have to pay a special surcharge or fee. This would generate about \$1.5 million a year, and someone would be used to pay for clean up of streets, extra security, and beautification projects.

At the meeting, Alfred Faiella, executive director of the Newark Economic Development Corporation, defended the idea of a SID proposal, and suggested that those who want a SID in Ironbound design a smaller project.

Councilman Henry Martinez issued a press release on the day of the meeting saying he was against a SID in the Ironbound. Previously, Mr. Rappaport had said that he was working with Councilman Martinez on the SID proposal.

"One of the problems in Ironbound is that we never have a choice about the things which are proposed for our neighborhood," said Art Rosa, from PAPP, who attended the meeting about the SID proposal.

Dina Matos, from PAC, said she was pleased that the groups had worked together to host the meeting. "If we work together, we can accomplish a lot."

Interested in watching children in your home?

You could establish a child care business. Ironbound Community Corporation is seeking to expand its Family Day Care Program to include new providers.

Call Kathy Calvopina at the
Ironbound Childrens' Center
589-6873

Riverbank Park

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"We are very fortunate that experts from Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson, and New Jersey Institute of Technology are willing to donate their time to make certain that the toxic chemicals are cleaned up completely, and the park reopened and restored for community use. We want the clean up to be as quick and cost-effective as possible," said Steve Powell from SPARK.

On Dec. 29, members of the community presented the community plan to Essex County Executive James Treffinger. Mr. Treffinger has said publically that the park will be cleaned up, and that the County will implement the community plan. Mr. Treffinger said that the cost of clean up of Riverbank park will be included in Essex County's 1998 capital budget. At the meeting, Mr. Treffinger said a meeting concerning cleaning up the park would be set up during January.

Meanwhile, SPARK is busy raising money to hire a professional to monitor the clean up and restoration work at the park to make certain that the job is properly done. Ironbound residents fought an uphill battle which went on for nearly two years to save their park.



Students at the Ironbound After-School Program sang at the performance of their plays by the New Jersey Playwrights.

Van Buren St. Library Reopens: "A Community Oasis"

The Van Buren St. Branch Library, at 140 Van Buren St., reopened on Nov. 19, 1997 after being closed for renovation for a number of years. The newly designed library has a community meeting room, a parking lot, state of the art public access computers and a special children's area.

"The branch libraries are an important community oasis," said Dr. Alex Boyd, library director, "because they service the families in the neighborhood."

In his talk at the library, Dr. Boyd talked about the start of the Van Buren St. Library, which opened its doors on Sept. 26, 1923. Today the library serves a population of more than 15,000 children and adults, including 8 public and 4 parochial schools. Patron use exceeds that of any other branch library.

Susan Blake, formerly children's librarian at the branch, has been appointed to direct the new facility. "Those of you who are here who are principals and teachers, those who are pastors, those who publicize our programs in newspapers, senior citizens, community groups, preschool students and

parents, grandparents and children. You are all VIP's to us," Ms. Blake said in her remarks.

The library hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 PM, and Wednesday, from 1 to 8 PM.



Susan Blake [on right] is the director of the newly renovated Van Buren St. Library.

Mesa Redonda Sobre Recreação No Ironbound

Foi algo estranho. Os moradores do Ironbound rueram em volta duma grande mesa redonda olhando para um grande mapa espalhado pelo piso. De vez em quando alguém se ajoelhava e apontava para um ponto específico no mapa e perguntava: O que significa tudo isso?

Isto era a "Mesa Redonda da Recreação," patrocinada pela Corporação Comunitaria do Ironbound e o Congresso Americano Portugues (PAC) realizada no dia 13 de Novembro na escola Santa Lucy Fillipini. Os moradores se uniram aos estudantes e funcionarios da Escola de Arquitetura do Instituto de Tecnologia de New Jersey, afim de identificarem quais programas recreacionais seriam mais apropriados para a vizinhança e onde se localizariam.

Os pessoas do NJIT produziram o mapa gigante do Ironbound. Os presentes na reunião ajudaram identificar locais correntes como o Club dos Rapazes (Boys Club), escolas e parques, terenos desocupados que poderiam serem usados para campos, playgrounds ou jardins. ICC entrevistou alguns alunos pre-escolar bem como funcionarios destas escolas afim de obter a opinião deles.

Alguns pontos abrangidos na reunião:

- * Necessidade de mais campos de futebol, football e basquete.

- * A possibilidade de abrirem as repartições recreacionais de algumas escolas.

- * Insuficientes locais de recreação, areas verdes, jardins e bancos para se sentarem.

- * Demasiado desenvolvimento, e como abordar o assunto.

- * Falta de divulgação dos programas recreacionais ja existentes.

Assim que cada pessoa entrava na sala, eles recebiam um formulario para ser preenchido. Os estudantes do NJIT pretendem computar toda estas informações e apresentar um balanço final da situação, no futuro proximo.

"Ouço muita reclamações do pessoal do Ironbound dizendo que as decisões concernentes ao bairro são tomadas por pessoas alheias às necessidades e realidades do Ironbound, sem

levarem consideração os moradores locais," disse Joe Della Fave do ICC. "Esta é a razão desta reunião ser singular."

ICC intenciona continuar circular formularios de opinião, e seguir de perto juntamente com a comunidade todo o desenrolar destes eventos. Para maiores informações, ou como obter um destes formularios, chame (973) 589-3353.

Vencedores Do Projecto Sobre A Paz

Os alunos vencedores do Concurso de Cartazes do Projecto Sobre a Paz (mostra no coberta desta revista) foram:

Jaqueline Carmona e Elisha Padilla da St. Francis Xaveir; Luis Miguel Cunha, Cristina Dios, Erin Partuka, Stephen Marzabal, Natalie Gonzalez da St. Casimirs'; Sarah Arellano e Christina Rodriguez da Ann St. School; Dana Lukas da Wilson Ave.; Jeniifer Torres da Hawkins St.; Janice Delaney, Melissa cordova, Janine Delaney e Manuela Nos da Oliver St.; Alicia Colistoda St. Lucy Fillippini School; e Chad Culver da St. Benedict's Prep.



O Parque do "Riverbank"

Um começo novo agora que o plano para construir um estádio para o baseball no parque do Riverbank foi derrotado, o passo seguinte a dar é conseguir limpar e reabrir o parque," disse Manuel Lavin da organização SPARK (Save the Park At RiverbankK). "Esta luta não vai parar até que o parque esteja aberto para uso da comunidade."

Mandatários da cidade e do condado realizaram uma conferencia de imprensa no dia 17 de Dezembro, de 1997 para confirmar a escolha doutro sitio para o estadio de baseball. O sitio novo será na Bridge St. na baixa de Newark. Nos meses mais recentes, os membros da SPARK assistiram a uma série de reuniões, presididas pelo substituo do "Mayor" Augusto Amador, com o fim de envolver muitas organizações comunitárias e recreacionais num plano para reabrir o parque. Um plano foi apresentado para obter opiniões do público numa reunião que teve lugar no Sport Club Portugues no dia 10 de Dezembro de 1997.

"Esta é uma das primeiras vezes que eu saiba em que tantos grupos do Ironbound se juntaram para trabalhar numa causa comum," disse Sr. Amador.

O plano orquestrado pelo grupo quer restaurar o parque o seu fim basico. O campo do baseball, a area de recreio, as rrvores os bancos, a pista, os campos de tenis, o campo de basketball a bancada ficariam como antes. O campo de futebol seria alargado para as medidas regulamentares (soccer). Um pequeno campo de "soccer" para as crianças seria adicionado num canto do parque. Luzes seriam instaladas para jogar a noite nos campos de baseball e soccer. Alguém da comunidade seria responsavel pela gestão e manutenção do parque.

O parque está tecnicamente fechado devido a terem encontrado lá productos químicos tóxicos. Continua a ser usado por muita gente porque as áreas de recreio no Ironbound são tão poucas. O chumbo e alguns metais pesados como sejam o arenio estão acima dos níveis permitidos.

A SPARK tem estado em contacto com alguns dos melhores peritos do ambiente para estabelecer um plano para limpar os químicos, trabalhando à volta das arvores e das estruturas

existentes. Uma parte do plano da comunidade para o parque é que o condado trabalhe com a SPARK e os peritos que ofereceram a sua ajuda no processo da limpeza.

"Fomos felizes na medida em que os peritos da Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson, e do Insittuto de Tecnologia de New Jersey ofereceram os seus serviços assegurando a limpeza completa dos quimicos tóxicos e a reabertura e restauração do párque para uso da comunidade. Queremos que a limpeza seja tão rápida e o custo tão efectivo quanto possivel," disse Steve Powell da SPARK.

No 29 de Dezembro, membros da comunidade apresentaram o seu plano ao Executivo do Condado de Essex James Treffinger. O Sr. treffinger disse públicamente que o parque será limpo, e que o condado implementará o plano da comunidade. O Sr. Treffinger disse que o custo da limpeza do Riverbank parque será incluído no orçamento do condado de Essex para 1998. Na reunião, o Sr. Treffinger disse que outra reuniao acerca da limpeza do parque seria agendada para o próximo mês.

Neste meio tempo a SPARK está empenhada em conseguir dinheiro para empregar um profissional para fiscalizar a limpeza e restauração do parque assegurando que esta operação seja propriamente executada.

Os residentes do Ironbound lutaram numa batalha positiva para salvar o seu parque que durou dois anos.



Proposta Da SID Oposta

"Por que razão deveriam as pessoas pagar impostos a dobrar para receber serviços, se impostos tais já são pagos para serviços que deveriam já ser rendidos?" disse David Schnegelberger, um residente do Ironbound.

"Eles dizem que isto só ira afectar o comércio, mas eles irão passar tal custo ao ciumsumidor," disse Begonia Kowelt. "Isto irá prejudicar a todos."

Estes forão lgums dos comentários feitos na reunião comunitária em Nov. 19, 1997 na Igreja Wolff Memorial. A reunião foi patrocinada pelas organizações: Portuguese American Political Party (PAPP), Portuguese American Congress (PAC) e Save The Park at Riverbank (SPARK).

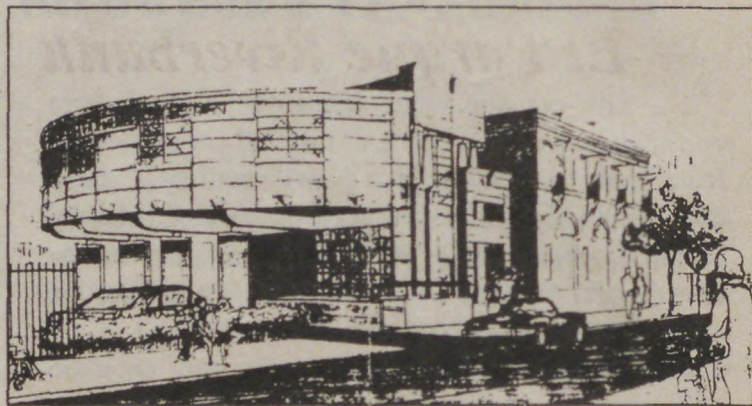
A proposta de fazer do Ironbound um Distrito de melhoria especial (SID) foi fita por Steve Rapport, um comerciante do Ironbound. Na proposta, todos os comercios do Ironbound têmam que pagar uma subtaxa especial. Isto iria gerar cerca de \$1.5 milhoes de dollars ao ano, alguém seria contratado para gerir o SID. O dinheiro seria usado para limpeza das ruas, seguridade extra, e projectos de embelezamento.

Na reunião, Alfred Faiella, director executivo da Corporação de Desenvolvimento Economico de Newark, defendeu a ideia roposta acerca do programa da SID, e sugeriu a todos interessados na existência do SID no Ironbound, que criêm um projecto mais pequeno.

O Vereador Henry Martinez emitiu um comunicado a prensa, no dia da reuniao, dizendo ser contra a SID no Ironbound. De anternao o Sr. Rappaport mecionou estar a tabalhar com o Vereador Martinez na proposta do SID.

"Um dos problemas no Ironbound é que nos nunca temos escolha sobre as propostas para a nossa vizinhanca," disse Art Rosa do PAPP, que atendeu a reunião sobre a proposta SID.

Dina Matos, da ORganização PAC, manifestou-se grata pelos diferentes grupos terem trabalhado juntos a fim de anfitriar tal reunião. "Se trabalharmos unidos, muito conseguiremos cumprir."



Biblioteca da Van Buren St.: "Um Oásis Comunitario"

A sucursal da Biblioteca da Van Buren St. no 140 Van Buren St. reabriu no dia 19 de Novembro de 1997, depois de ter estado fechado por alguns anos para renovações. A novamente desenhada livraria tem uma sala de reuniões comunitaria, um parque de estacionamento, acesso publico a uma modernissima sala de computadores e uma area especial para crianças.

"As sucursais de livrarias são um oásis importante comunitario," disse o Dr. Alex Boyd, director da livraria, "porque elas servem as familias da comunidade." No seu discurso na biblioteca, o Dr. Boyd falou sobre o principio da Biblioteca da Van Buren St. As suas portas foram abertas no dia 26 de Setembro de 1923. Hoje a livraria serve uma população de mais de 15,000 crianças e adultos, incluindo 8 escolas publicas e 4 escolas catolicas. O uso desta livraria excede todas as outras livrarias.

Susan Blake, que antes atendia crianças na livraria, foi nomeada para ser a directora do novo edificio.

"Todos vós que se sabe que são directores escolares e professores, os que sao pastores, os que publicam os nossos programas em jornais, grupos de idosos, grupos comunitarios, pre-school estudantes e pais, avós e crianças. Todos vós sao VIP para nós," a Sra. Blake disse no seu discurso.

Os horarios da Biblioteca são: Segunda, Terça, Quinta, e Sexta das 9:30 AS 5:30 e Quarta da 1:00 as 8 PM.

El Parque Riverbank "Un Nuevo Comienzo"

"Ahora que la propuesta construir un estadium ha sido derrotada, el proximo paso és limpiar el parque para re-abrir sus puertas," dijo Manuel Lavin de SPARK. "Esta batalla no será lograda hasta que el parque esté abierto a la comunidad."

Oficiales de la ciudad y del condado tuvieron una conferencia de prensa en el in de diciembre 17, 1997 para confirmar la preferencia de otro lugar para la construcción del estadium. La nueva localización sera en Bridge St. localizado en "downtown" Newark.

Durante los ultimos meses SPARK cubrió una serie de reuniones, los cuales fueron conducidos por Deputy Mayor Augusto Amador, para involucrar a la comunidad en organizaciones recreativas y formalizar un plan para re-apertura del parque. El plan fué presentado para recurrir a la opinión del publico en una reunión que tomó a cabo en el 10 de diciembre 10, 1997 en el Club Deportivo Portugues.

"En mi conocimiento esta es una de las primeras veces que tantos grupos en el Ironbound se han reunido para confrontar una misma causa," dijo Sr. Amador.

El plan que el grupo a diseñado llama para re-construir el parque a su estatus original; el patio para los niños, el quidilatero de pelota, los arboles, la cancha de tenis, la cancha de baloncesto, el trillo de correr, y su linda grama. El quidilatero sera arreglado para que se pueda usar para fútbol. Lineas para los niños jugar fútbol seran añadichas. Luces seran puestas para que por la noche se puede jugar fúrbol y beisbol. Alguien de la comunidad será empleado para que mantenga el servicio y el uso del parque al dia.

El parque esta tecnicamente cerrado por el descubrimiento de los toxicos. Todavia se usa por muchas personas por la falta de recreaciones en el Ironbound. Los niveles de arsénico estan mas alto que lo permitido.

SPARK ha estado reuniendo con oficiales expertos para empezar la limpieza de los quimicos y hacerlo sin molestar su estructura y los árboles. Una parte de la comunidad planifica que el condado

debe unirse a SPARK en el limpimiento del parque y proveerle su asistencia en el proceso de limpieza.

"Somos afortunados que los expertos de Robert Wood Johnson, Rutgers y el Instituto de Tecnologia de New Jersey estan dispuestos en doñar su tiempo para asegurarse que los toxicos queden apropiadamente limpios y el parque sea reabierto y restaurado para el uso de la comunidad. Queremos que la limpieza sea lo mas pronto y economico," dijo Steve Powell de SPARK.

En Dic. 29 miembros de la comunidad presentaron el plan al County Executive James Treffinger. Mr. Treffinger dijo publicamente que el parque iba ser limpiado, y que le Condado implementaria el plan propuesto por la comunidad. Mr. Treffinger dijo que el costo de la limpieza de Riverbank Park será incluido en el costo capital de Essex County 1998. En la reunión, Mr. Treffinger dijo que seria necesario tener una reunión para planificar la limpieza del parque durante el proximo mes.

Mientras tanto, SPARK esta muy ocupado en haciendo colectas para emplear un profesional que veritique que todo esté hecho bien.

Los residentes tuvieron han batallado por dos años para defender su parque.



Propuesta SID Opuesta

"¿Porque personas tienen que pagar doble impuestos para obtener servicios que deberemos recibir y que ya estamos pagando impuestos para recibir?" dice David Schnegelberger, un residente de Ironbound.

"Dicen que no mas va afectar a negocios, pero ellos lo pasaran a los consumidores," dijo Begonia Kowet. "Esto va a dañar a todos."

Estos fueron algunos de los comentarios hechos en una reunión comunitaria el 19 de Noviembre del 1997 en la Iglesia Wolff Memorial. La reunión fue patrocinado por el Partido Politico Portugues Americano (PAPP), el Congreso Portugues Americano (PAC), y Coalición Para Salvar El Parque Riverbank (SPARK).

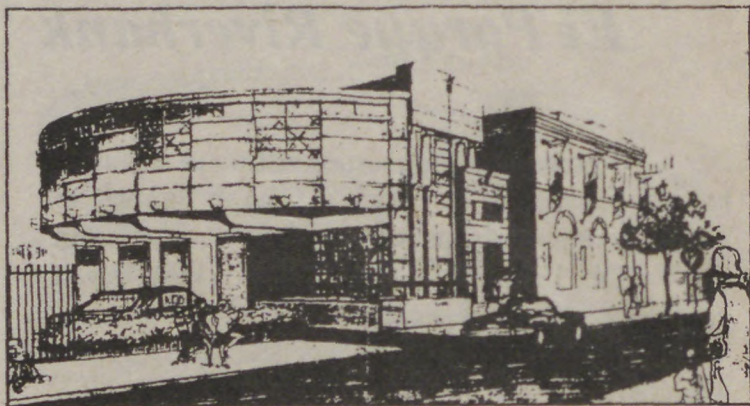
La propuesta para hacer Ironbound un Distrito Especial Para Mejorar (SID) fue entregada por Steve Rappaport, un negociante de Ironbound. La propuesta hace que todos los negocios en Ironbound tendran que pagar un costo especial. Esto creara \$1.5 millones por año y alguien seria empleado para mantener a SID. El dinero seria usado para limpiar las calles, para extra seguridad y para proyectos bellos.

En la reunión, Alfred Faiella, el director Ejecutivo de la Corporación de Desarrollo Economico de Newark, defendio la idea de la propuesta SID, y sugerio que aquellos ue quieran un SID en Ironbound diseñen un proyecto mas pequeño.

El Concejal Henry Martinez mando una noticia de prensa el mismo dia de la reunión diciendo que el esta en contra de SID en Ironbound. Previamente, el Señor Rappaport a dicho que el estaba trabajando con el Concejal Martinez en la propuesta SID.

"Uno de los problemas en Ironbound es que nunca tenemos la oportunidad de escoger las cosas que son propuestas en nuestros barrios," dijo Art Rosa de PAPP.

Dina Matos, de PAC, dijo que ella esta alegre que los grupos trabajaron juntos para patrocinar la reunión. "Si trabajamos juntos, podemos lograr mucho."



La Biblioteca: "Un Oasis Para La Comunidad"

La biblioteca de Van Buren St. abrió sus puertas otra vez el 19 de Noviembre 1997 despues de tranca por algunos años para renovar. La nueva remodelada biblioteca tiene un carto para reuniones, estacionamiento, computadoras disponibles al publico, y una area especialmente disenada para niños.

"La biblioteca es un oasis importante para la comunidad," dice Doctor Alex Boyd, director de la biblioteca, "porque es de servicio a las familias de la vecindad."

En sus discurso en la biblioteca, Dr. Boyd hablo de el comienzo de la biblioteca en Van Buren St. La biblioteca abriu sus puertas por primera vez el 28 de Septiembre 1923. Hoy, la biblioteca sirve a una poblacion de mas de 15,000 niños y adultos, incluyendo ocho escuelas publicas y cuatro escuelas parroquial.

Susan Black, antiguamente la biblitecarla de niños, a sido nombrado la directora de la nueva facilidad. "Todos ustedes que estan aquí que son principales y maestros, s que son pastores, aqueños que publican nuestros programa en el preiódico, personas mayor de edad, grupos de la comunidad, estudiantes pre-escolares, padres, abuelos, y niños. Ustedes son los mas iportantes para nosotros," dijo Ms. Bolake en su observación.

Las horas de la biblioteca son: Lunes, Martes, Jueves, y Viernes de 9:30 - 5:30 PM, Miercoles de 1 - 8 PM.

Mesa Redonda Sobre Recreaciones en el Ironbound

Fue una escena extraña. Residentes del Ironbound sentados en círculo mirando a un mapa gigante desplegado sobre el suelo. De vez en cuando, alguien se bajaba al suelo y gateaba para apuntar un sitio en el mapa. ¿Qué estaba pasando?

Era la "Mesa Redonda Sobre Recreaciones," auspiciada por el Ironbound Community Corporation y por el Portuguese American Congress (PAC) celebrada el 13 de diciembre en la escuela St. Lucy Fillippini. Los residentes del Ironbound asociados con estudiantes y facultad de la Escuela de Arquitectura de N.J. (N.J. Insitute of Technology) para identificar qué tipos de programas de recreo necesita este barrio y ver donde se les podría localizar.

El equipo de NJIT produjo el mapa gigante del Ironbound. Las personas en la reunión ayudaron a identificar los lugares existentes de recreación, así como: el Boys Club, las escuelas y los parques. También idenficarón parcelas de tierra vacías que se podrían usar para campos, canchas jardines o patios de recreo para niños pequeños. ICC entrevistó personal perteneciente a jardines de la infancia y a asociaciones del PTA de las escuelas locales, para recoger ideas. Miembros de las ligas de fútbol americano, fútbol y beisbol fueron también invitados par dar sus ideas.

He aquí algunos de los puntos de vista surgidos en la reunión:

- * la necesidad de más campos de beisbol, fútbol americano y fútbol.

- * la posibilidad de abrir las facilidades recreacionales de las escuelas los fines de semana y a los noches.

- * insuficiencia de parques de niños y de espacios verdes para jardines y para bancos

- * demasiado desarrollo del barrio y como se podria tratar

- * falta de conocimiento de los programas de recreación existentes en la comunidad

Según entraban las personas en el salon, recibían un "Sondeo de recreaciones" para rellenar. La facultad y los estudiantes de NJIT van a compilar

toda la información y volverán a la comunidad para dar un informe final dentro de poco tiempo.

"He oído, que los residentes del Ironbound se quejan de que las decisiones sobre lo que va a pasar en la comunidad se hacen por personas que no piden la opinión de los residentes para finalizar los planes," dijo Joe Della Fave del ICC. "Por eso esta reunión es tan diferente."

ICC va a continuar circulando el sondeo y continuará con el proceso de planificación recreacional por la comunidad. Para más información, o para recibir un sondeo, llame al 589-3353.



Los Ganadores Del Proyecto De Paz

Los ganadores de este año en el Concurso De Carteles De Paz, patrocinado por Proyecto de Educación de Paz de Ironbound (demostrado en la primera pagina) fueron:

Jacqueline Carmona y Elisha Padilla d eSt. Francis Xavier; Luis Miguel Cunha, Cristina Dios, Erin Partuka, Stephen Marzabel y Natalie Gonzales de St. Casimir's; Jennifer Toores de Hawkins St.; Sarah Arellano y Christina Rodriguez de Ann St; Dana Lukas de Wilson Ave.; Janice Delaney, Melissa Cordova, Janine Delaney y Manuela Nos de Oliver St; Alicia Colisto de St. Lucy Fillippini; y Chad Culver de St. Benedict's Prep.

Ironbound Voices is a project of the Ironbound Community Information Center. We believe that all people are entitled to income, food, clothing, housing, education, and health care. We will print articles about groups taking steps to make this belief a reality. We will also publish information about your legal and social service rights. This issue was published with the help of:

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